1.   (Currently Amended)   A packet transmission method for transmitting data packets via a telecommunication network, comprising the steps of:

        a) judging a quality of a received data packet;

        b) tagging said data packet by adding dropping information in response to the result of said judging step; and

        c) dropping said tagged data packet based on said added dropping information, when a predetermined dropping condition is met, wherein said quality is judged on the basis of an uplink quality parameter and/or a downlink power control status, wherein said data packet is an ATM cell and defective data frames are packed into the same ATM cell, and wherein those ATM cells which contain only defective frames are tagged in said tagging step.

2.   (Original)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said dropping information is a drop flag provided in a header portion of said data packet.

3.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said quality judgment is performed on the basis of an error check of said data packet.

4.   (Original)   A method according to claim 3, wherein said error check is performed based on a cyclic redundancy code included in said received data packet.

5.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said quality judgment is performed on the basis of a comparison of a quality likelihood parameter with a predetermined

threshold.

6.   (Original)   A method according to claim 5, wherein said predetermined threshold is periodically updated for each transmission link of said telecommunication network.

7.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said dropping step is executed at a network element where traffic policing and/or congestion control is implemented.

8.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined dropping condition is a congestion of a transmission link.

9.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined dropping condition is an overuse of a contract of a particular connection.

10.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said packet transmission method is an ATM transmission method, and wherein said data packet is an ATM cell.

11.   Cancelled

12.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 10, wherein said telecommunication network is a mobile communication network, and wherein said transmission

method is used for transmitting ATM cells between a base station and a radio network controller.

13.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said data packet comprises a macro diversity combining bit stream.

14.   (Previously Presented)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said telecommunication network is a mobile communication network and said data packet is a downlink data packet.

15.   (Original)   A method according to claim 14, wherein said downlink power control status is determined on the basis of a downlink power level commanded by a mobile station to which said data packet is to be transmitted.

16.   (Original)   A method according to claim 15, wherein said transmission link is a macro diversity branch.

17.   (Currently Amended)   A transmission apparatus for transmitting data packets via a telecommunication network, comprising:

        a) judging means for judging a quality of a received data packet; and

        b) tagging means for adding dropping information to said data packet in response to a judging result of said judging means, wherein said judging means is arranged to judge the quality of said received data packet based on an uplink quality parameter and/or a downlink power

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control status, wherein said data packet is an ATM cell and defective data frames are packed into

the same ATM cell, and wherein those ATM cells which contain only defective frames are tagged

in said tagging means.

18.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said packet

transmission apparatus comprises a dropping means for detecting said dropping information and

for dropping said data packet based on said detected dropping information, when a predetermined

dropping condition is met.

19.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said tagging

means is arranged to set a drop flag provided in a header portion of said data packet.

20.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said packet

transmission apparatus is arranged to perform an uplink transmission, and wherein said judging

means is arranged to judge the quality of said received data packet based on an error check of said

received data packet.

21.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said judging

means is arranged to perform said error check based on a cyclic redundancy code included in said

received data packet.

22.   (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said judging

means is arranged to judge the quality on the basis of a comparison of quality likelihood parameter with a stored predetermined threshold.

23. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said stored predetermined threshold is periodically received and updated by said judging means.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said dropping means is a means implemented for traffic policing and/or congestion control.

25. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said dropping means comprises a drop control means for determining a congestion of a transmission link or an overuse of a contract of a transmission link, as said predetermined dropping condition, and for releasing a dropping operation, when the predetermined dropping condition has been determined.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said telecommunication network is a mobile network and said packet transmission apparatus is a base station of said mobile network, and wherein said data packet is an ATM cell.

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said packet transmission apparatus is arranged to perform a downlink transmission.

28. (Previously presented)   An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said telecommunication network is a mobile network and said packet transmission apparatus is a radio network controller of said mobile network.

29. (Currently Amended)   A network element for a telecommunication network, comprising judging means for judging a quality of a received data packet based on an uplink quality parameter and/or a downlink power control status; dropping means for detecting dropping information included in said received data packet, and for dropping said data packet based on said detected dropping information, when the predetermined dropping condition is met, wherein said data packet is an ATM cell and defective data frames are packed into the same ATM cell, and wherein those ATM cells which contain only defective frames are tagged.

30. (Original)   A network element according to claim 29, wherein said dropping means comprises a drop control means for determining a congestion of a transmission link and/or an overuse of a contract of said transmission link, as said dropping condition, and for releasing a dropping operation, when the dropping condition has been determined.

31. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said network element is an ATM node or an ATM gateway, and wherein said received data packet is an ATM cell.